

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claims 11, 16, 22, 23, 27 and 28 have been amended, and claim 24 has been canceled. Claims 13-14, 18-19 and 29-42 have been withdrawn from consideration.

It is believed that all of the independent claims, and therefore all of the pending claims, distinguish over Bush, U.S. patent No. 2,897,961. In particular, independent claim 11 makes it more clear that one of the removable sheets encasing the bandage is in direct contact with entire adhesive on the patient-contacting surface. Independent claims 16 and 28 are now both "consisting of" claims.

Essential to the invention of Bush is the inclusion of an insert 30.

"To allow for the handling of the adhesive bandage 10 after being almost withdrawn from the wrapper 11, without the fingers coming in contact with the adhesive side of the bandage, there is provided an adhesive 30 between the end of the adhesive bandage 10, near the finger tabs 27 and 28, and the wrapper sheet 17. ... The insert 30 is doubly folded about a line 31 to form two contiguous panels 32 and 33, one panel 32 being adhesively attached to the adhesive face of the bandage 10 at one end by the adhesive layer 13 ..." ('961 patent, column 4, lines 5-20; Figures 5 and 6, in particular).

Applicant's invention does away with this insert 30, instead consisting only of a bandage portion, and two packaging portions on either side thereof. This not only saves on manufacturing costs and materials, but it reduces the number of items that must be discarded upon use of the bandage. Whereas Bush requires that three items be disposed of when the bandage portion is applied, Applicant reduces this to just the two backing sheets.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicant believes all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail.

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